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Submitted to ScienceAsia 1

Probabilistic pointer analysis for multithreaded programs

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ABSTRACT: The use of pointers and data-structures based on pointers results in circular memory references that are interpreted by a vital compiler analysis, namely pointer analysis. For a pair of memory references at a program point, a typical pointer analysis specifies if the points-to relation between them may exist, definitely does not exist, or definitely exists. The "may be" case, which describes the points-to relation for most of the pairs, can not be dealt with by most compiler optimizations. This is so to guarantee the soundness of these optimizations. However the "may be" case can be capitalized by the modern class of speculative optimizations if the probability that two memory references alias can be measured. Focusing on multithreading, a prevailing technique of programming, this paper presents a new flow-sensitive technique for probabilistic pointer analysis of multithreaded programs. The proposed technique has the form of a type system and calculates the probability of every points-to relation at each program point. The key to our approach is to calculate the points-to information via a post-type derivation. The use of type systems has the advantage of associating each analysis results with a justification (proof) for the correctness of the results. This justification has the form of a type derivation and is very much required in applications like certified code.

KEYWORDS: Static analysis, Speculative optimizations, Probabilistic alias analysis, Distributed programs, Semantics of multithreaded programs, Type systems.

INTRODUCTION

Multithreading is enjoying a growing interest and becoming a prevailing technique of programming. The use of multiple threads has several advantages: (a) concealing the delay of commands like reading from a secondary storage (b) improving the action of programs, like web servers, that run on multiprocessors, (c) building complex systems for user interface, (d) simplifying the process of organizing huge systems of code. However the static analysis of multithreaded programs ¹⁻³ is intricate due to the possible interaction between multiple threads.

Among effective tools of modern programming languages are pointers which empower coding intricate data structures. Not only does

the uncertainty of pointer values at compile time complicate analysis of programs, but also retard program compilation by compelling the program optimization and analysis to be conservative. The pointer analysis ^{4–6} of programs is a challenging problem in which researchers have trade space and time costs for precision. However binary decision diagrams ⁷ have been used to ease the difficulty of this trade off.

At any program point and for every pair of memory references, a traditional pointer analysis figures out whether one of these references may point to, definitely points to, or definitely does point to the other reference. For most of pairs of the memory references the points-to relation is of type "may be". This is specially the case for

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techniques that prefer speed over accuracy. Traditional optimization techniques are not robust enough to treat the cases "may be" and "definitely" differently. The idea behind speculative optimization is to subsidize the "maybe" case, specially if the probability of "maybe" cab be specifically quantified ^{8,9}.

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Pointer analysis ^{10,11} is among most important program analyses of multithreaded programs. Pointer analysis of multithreaded programs has many applications; (a) mechanical binding of file operations that are in abeyance, (b) optimizations for memory systems like prefetching and relocating remote data calculations, (c) equipping compilers with necessary information for optimizations like common subexpression elimination and induction variable elimination, and (d) relaxing the process of developing complex tools for software engineering like program slicers and race detectors.

This paper presents a new technique for pointer analysis of multithreaded programs. The proposed technique is probabilistic; it anticipates precisely for every program point the probability of every points-to relation. Building on a type system, the proposed approach is control-flow-sensitive. The key to the presented analysis is to calculate probabilities for points-to relations through the compositional use of inference rules of a type system. The proposed technique associates with every analysis a proof (type derivation) for the correctness of the analysis.

Among techniques to approach static analysis of programs is the algorithmic style. However the proposed technique of this paper has the form of a type system. The algorithmic style does not reflect how the analysis results are obtained because it works on control-flow graphs of programs; not on phrase structures as in the case of type systems. Therefore the typesystems approach 4,12-14 is perfect for applications that require to handle a justifications (proof) for correctness of analyss results together with each individual analysis. An example of such applications is certified code. What contributes to suitability of type-systems tools to produce such proofs is the relative simplicity of its inference rules. This simplicity is a much appreciated property in applications that require justifications. In type-systems approach, the justifications take the form of type derivations.

```
1.    a := &c;

2.    if(...) then b := &c

3.         else b := &d;

4.    par{

5.    {a := &c}

6.    {a := &d}

7.    };

8.    while(...)

9.    if(...) then e := &d

10.    else e := 5;
```

Fig. 1 A motivating example.

Motivation

Figure 1 presents a motivating example of our work. This example uses three pointer variables (a, b, and e) that point at two variables (c and d). We suppose that (i) the condition of the if statement at line 2 is true with probability 0.6, (ii) the condition of the if statement at line 9 is true with probability 0.5, and (iii) the loop at line 8 iterates at most 100 times. These statistical and probabilistic information can be obtained using edge profiling ^{15–18}. In absence of edge profiling, heuristics can be used. The work presented in this paper aims at introducing a probabilistic pointer analysis that produces results like that in Figure 2. The aim is also to associate each such pointer-analysis result with a justification for the correctness of the result. This justification takes the form of a type derivation in our proposed technique which is based on a type system.

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Contributions

Contributions of this paper are the following:

- 1. A new pointer analysis technique, that is probabilistic and flow-sensitive, for multi-threaded programs.
- 2. A new probabilistic operational-semantics for multithreaded programs.

Organization

The remainder of the paper is organized in three sections as follows. The first of these sections presents a simple language equipped with parallel and pointer constructs. This section also presents a new probabilistic operational semantics for the constructs of the language that we study. The second of these sections introduces a type system to carry probabilistic pointer analysis of parallel programs. This involves introducing

Program point	Pointer information
first point	$\{t \mapsto \emptyset \mid t \in Var\}$
between lines 1 & 2	$\{a \mapsto \{(c',1)\}, t \mapsto \emptyset \mid x \neq t\}$
point between 3 & 4	$ \{a \mapsto \{(c', 1)\}, t \mapsto \emptyset \mid x \neq t\} \{a \mapsto \{(c', 1)\}, b \mapsto \{(c', 0.6), (d', 0.4)\}, t \mapsto \emptyset \mid t \notin \{a, b\} $
	$t \mapsto \emptyset \mid t \notin \{a, b\}\}$
point between 7 & 8	${a \mapsto \{(c', 0.5), (d', 0.5)\}},$
	$b \mapsto \{(c', 0.6), (d', 0.4)\}, t \mapsto \emptyset \mid t \notin \{a, b\}\}$
last point	$\{a \mapsto \{(c', 0.5), (d', 0.5)\}, e \mapsto \{(d', \frac{1}{100} \times \sum_{i=1}^{i=100} (\frac{1}{2})^i)\}$
_	$ \{a \mapsto \{(c', 0.5), (d', 0.5)\}, \\ b \mapsto \{(c', 0.6), (d', 0.4)\}, t \mapsto \emptyset \mid t \notin \{a, b\}\} \\ \{a \mapsto \{(c', 0.5), (d', 0.5)\}, e \mapsto \{(d', \frac{1}{100} \times \sum_{i=1}^{i=100} (\frac{1}{2})^i)\} \\ b \mapsto \{(c', 0.6), (d', 0.4)\}, t \mapsto \emptyset \mid t \notin \{a, b, c\}\} $

Fig. 2 Results of pointer analysis of program in Figure 1.

suitable notions for pointer types, a subtyping relation, and a detailed proof for the soundness of the proposed type system w.r.t. the semantics presented in the paper. Related work is reviewed in the last section of the paper.

PROBABILISTIC OPERATIONAL SEMANTICS

This section presents the programming language we study and a probabilistic pointer analysis for its constructs. We build our language (Figure 3) on the *while* language, originally presented by Hoare in 1969, by equipping it with commands dealing with pointers and parallel computations. The parallel concepts dealt with in our language are fork-join, conditionally spawned threads, and parallel loops. These concepts are represented by commands *par*, *par-if*, and *par-for*), respectively. Sates of our proposed operational semantics are defined as follows:

Definition 1 1. $Addrs = \{x' \mid x \in Var\}$ and $Val = \mathbb{Z} \cup Addrs$.

- 2. $\gamma \in \Gamma = Var \rightarrow Val$.
- 3. $state \in States = \{(\gamma, p) \mid \gamma \in \Gamma \land p \in [0, 1]\} \cup \{abort\}.$

Typically, a state is a function from the set of variables to the set of values (integers). In our work, we enrich the set of values with a set of symbolic addresses and enrich each state with a probabilistic value that is meant to measure the probability with which this state is reached. The *abort* state is there to capture any case of de-reference that is unsafe; i.e de-referencing a variable that contains no address. We assume that the set of program variables, *Var*, is finite.

Except that arithmetic and Boolean operations are not allowed on pointers, the semantics of writhmetic and Boolean expressions are defined as usual (Figure 4). The inference rules of Figure 5 define the transition relation \rightsquigarrow of our operational semantics.

We notice that none of the assignment statements changes the probability component of a given pre-state to produce the corresponding post-state. The symbol p_{if} used in the inference rules of the if statement denotes a number in [0,1] and measures the probability that the condition of the statement is true. This probabilistic information can be obtained using edge profiling $^{15-18}$. In absence of edge profiling, heuristics can be used.

The par command is the main parallel concept. This concept is also known as cobegincoend or fork-join. The execution of this command amounts to starting concurrently executing the threads of the command at the beginning of the construct and then to wait for the completion of these executions at the end of the construct. Then the subsequent command can be executed. The inference rule (par-sem) approximates the execution methodology of the par command. The probability p' in the rule (par-sem) is multiplied by $\frac{1}{n!}$ (not by $\frac{1}{n}$ as the reader may expect) because the permutation θ finds one of the n! ways in which the threads can be sorted and then executed. As an example, the reader may consider applying the rule *par-sem* when n = 3 and the threads are $S_1: a := b + c, S_2: b := a \times c, \text{ and } S_3: c := a - b.$ The semantics of par-if and par-for commands are defined using that of the par command.

PROBABILISTIC POINTER ANALYSIS

The purpose of a typical pointer analysis is to assign to every program point a points-to function. The domain of this function is the set of all pairs of pointers and the codomain is the set {definitely exists, definitely does not exist, may exist}. The codomain describes the points-to relation

```
n \in \mathbb{Z}, \ x \in Var, \ and \ \oplus \in \{+, -, \times\}
e \in Aexprs ::= x \mid n \mid e_1 \oplus e_2
b \in Bexprs ::= true \mid false \mid \neg b \mid e_1 = e_2 \mid e_1 \leqslant e_2 \mid b_1 \land b_2 \mid b_1 \lor b_2
S \in Stmts ::= x := e \mid x := \&y \mid *x := e \mid x := *y \mid skip \mid S_1; S_2 \mid if \ b \ then \ S_t \ else \ S_f \mid while \ b \ do \ S_t \mid par\{\{S_1\}, \dots, \{S_n\}\} \mid par-if\{(b_1, S_1), \dots, (b_n, S_n)\} \mid par-for\{S\}.
```

Fig. 3 The programming language.

Fig. 4 Semantics of arithmetic and Boolean expressions.

between pairs of memory references. For mosts of the pointer pairs, the points-to relation is "may exist". This is specially the case for techniques of pointer analysis that give priority for speed over efficiency. The common drawback for most existing program optimization techniques is that they can not treat the "maybe" and "definitely does not exist" cases differently. Speculative optimizations are meant to overcome this disadvantage via working on the result of analyses that can measure the probability that a points-to relation exist between two pointers.

This section presents a new technique for probabilistic pointer analysis for multithreaded programs. The technique has the form of a type system and its goal is to accurately calculate the likelihood at each program point for every pointsto relation. The advantages of the proposed technique include the simplicity of the inference rules of the type system and that no dependence profile information (information describing dependencies between threads) is required. Dependence profile information, required by some multithreading techniques like 19, is expensive to get. The proposed technique is flow-sensitive. The key to our technique is to calculate points-to probabilities via a post type derivation for a given program using the bottom points-to type as a pre

type.

The following definition presents some notations that are used in the rest of the paper.

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Definition 2 1. $Addrs = \{x' \mid x \in Var\}$ and $Addrs_p = Addrs \times [0, 1]$.

- 2. $Pre-PTS = \{pts \mid pts : Var \rightarrow 2^{Addrs_p} \text{ s.t. } \forall y \in Var. (y', p_1), (y', p_2) \in pts(x) \Longrightarrow p_1 = p_2\}.$
- 3. For $pts \in Pre-PTS$ and $x \in Var$, $\sum_{pts} x = \sum_{(z',p) \in pts(x)} p$.
- 4. For every $pts \in Pre-PTS$ and $x \in Var$, 228 $A_{pts}(x) = \{z' \mid \exists p > 0. (z', p) \in pts(x)\}.$ 229
- 5. For $A \in Addrs_n$, $pts \in Pre-PTS$, and $0 \le q \le 1$,
 - (a) $A \times q = \{(y', p \times q) \mid (y', p) \in A\}.$
 - (b) $pts \times q$ is the function defined by $(pts \times q)(x) = pts(x) \times q$.

We note that the set of symbolic addresses Addrs is enriched with probabilities to form the set $Addrs_p$. In line with real situations, the condition on the elements of Pre-PTS excludes maps that assign the same address for a variable with two different probabilities. The notation $\sum_{pts} x$ denotes the probability that the variables x has an address with respect to pts. The

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• Fork-join:

$$\frac{(\exists \ \theta : \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}). \ S_{\theta(1)}; S_{\theta(2)}; \dots; S_{\theta(n)} : (\gamma, p) \leadsto (\gamma', p')}{par\{\{S_1\}, \dots, \{S_n\}\} : (\gamma, p) \leadsto (\gamma', \frac{1}{n!} \times p')} (par\text{-sem})}$$

$$\frac{(\exists \ \theta : \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}). \ S_{\theta(1)}; S_{\theta(2)}; \dots; S_{\theta(n)} : (\gamma, p) \leadsto abort}{par\{\{S_1\}, \dots, \{S_n\}\} : (\gamma, p) \leadsto abort}$$

• Conditionally spawned threads:

$$\frac{par\{\{if\ b_1\ then\ S_1\ else\ skip\}\}: (\gamma, p) \leadsto state}{par-if\{(b_1, S_1), \ldots, (b_n, S_n)\}: (\gamma, p) \leadsto state}$$

• Parallel loops:

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$$\exists n. \ par\{\{S\}, \dots, \{S\}\} : (\gamma, p) \rightsquigarrow state}$$

$$par-for\{S\} : (\gamma, p) \rightsquigarrow state$$

Fig. 5 Inference rules of the semantics.

notation $A_{pts}(x)$ denotes the set of addresses **25** Part have a non-zero probability to get into x. The multiplication operations of Definition 2.5 are necessary to join many points-to types (each with a different probability) into one type.

A formalization for the concepts of the set of points-to types PTS, the subtyping relation \leq , and the relation $\models \subseteq \Gamma \times PTS$ are in the subsequent definition.

Definition 3 1. $PTS = \{pts \in Pre-PTS \mid$

242 $\forall x \in Var. \sum_{pts} x \leq 1$.

2.
$$pts \leqslant pts' \stackrel{\text{def}}{\Longleftrightarrow} \forall x. A_{pts}(x) \subseteq A_{pts'}(x)$$
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3.
$$pts \equiv pts' \stackrel{\text{def}}{\Longleftrightarrow} \forall x. A_{pts}(x) = A_{pts'}(x)$$
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4.
$$(\gamma, p) \models pts \stackrel{\text{def}}{\Longleftrightarrow} (\forall x. \ \gamma(x) \in Addrs \implies \exists q > 0. \ (\gamma(x), q) \in pts(x)).$$
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A way to calculate an upper bound for a set of n points-to types is introduced in the following 258

definition.

Definition 4 Suppose $pts_1, ..., pts_n$ is a sequence of n points-to types and $0 \le q_1, ..., q_n \le 1$ is a sequence of n numbers whose sum is less than or equal to 1. Then $\nabla((pts_1, q_1), ..., (pts_n, q_n)) : Var \rightarrow 2^{Addrs_p}$ is the function defined by:

$$\nabla((pts_1,q_1),\ldots,(pts_n,q_n))(x) =$$

$$\{(z',p)\mid (\exists i.\, z'\in A_{pts_i}(x)) \land (p=\Sigma_{(z',p_k)\in pts_k(x)}q_k\times p_k)\}.$$

We note that the order of the points-to lattice is the point-wise inclusion. However probabilities are implicitly taken into account in the definition of supremum which is based on Definition 4. Letting the probabilities of points-to relations be involved in the definition of the order relation complicates the formula of calculating the lattice supremum. Besides that this complication is not desirable, introducing probabilities apparently does not improve the type system results. The definition for $(\gamma, p) \models pts$ makes sure that a variable that has an address under γ is allowed (positive probability) to contain the same address under pts. As for Definition 4, we can interpret the elements of the sequence q_1, \ldots, q_n as weights for the elements of the sequence pts_1, \dots, pts_n , respectively. Therefore the map $\nabla((pts_1, q_1), \dots, (pts_n, q_n))$ joins pts_1, \dots, pts_n into one type with respect to the weights.

The following lemma proves that the upper bound of the previous definition is indeed a points-to type.

Lemma 1 The map $\nabla((pts_1, q_1), \dots, (pts_n, q_n))$ of previous definition is a points-to type.

Proof: Suppose that $\nabla((pts_1,q_1),\ldots,(pts_n,q_n))(x) = \{(z'_1,t_1),(z'_2,t_2),\ldots,(z'_m,t_m)\}$. To show the required we need to show that (a) $0 \le t_i \le 1$ and (b) $0 \le \Sigma_i t_i \le 1$. Since (b) implies (a), it is enough to show (b). Suppose that $\forall 1 \le i \le n, pts_i(x) = \{(z'_1,p_{1i}),(z'_2,p_{2i}),\ldots,(z'_m,p_{mi})\}$, where $\forall 1 \le j \le m, p_{ji} = 0$ if $z_j \notin A_{pts_i}(x)$. Then according to Definition 4 the values t_1,\ldots,t_m can be equivalently calculated by the matrix multiplication of Figure 6. Then

$$\Sigma_{i} t_{i} = (\Sigma_{i} q_{i} \times p_{1i}) + (\Sigma_{i} q_{i} \times p_{2i}) + \dots +$$

$$(\Sigma_{i} q_{i} \times p_{in})$$

$$= (q_{1} \times \Sigma_{i} p_{i1}) + (q_{2} \times \Sigma_{i} p_{i2}) + \dots +$$

$$(q_{n} \times \Sigma_{i} p_{in}).$$

When ote that $\forall j, \ 0 \leq \Sigma_i \ p_{ij} \leq 1$ by definition of pts_j and $\forall j, \ 0 \leq q_j \leq 1$. Therefore this last summation is less than 1.

Lemma 2 Suppose that $A = \{pts_1, ..., pts_n\} \subseteq PTS$ and $pts = \nabla((pts_1, \frac{1}{n}), ..., (pts_n, \frac{1}{n}))$. Then with respect to definitions of ∇ , the subtyping, and equality relations introduced in Definitions 3.2, 3.3, and 4, respectively, the set PTS is a complete lattice where $\forall A = pts$.

Proof: Clearly *pts* is an upper bound for *A*. Moreover for every x, $A_{pts}(x) = \bigcup_i A_{pts_i}(x)$. Therefore *pts* is the least upper bound of *A*.

The inference rules of our proposed type system for probabilistic pointer analysis are shown in Figure 7.

The judgment of an arithmetic expression has the form $e: pts \rightarrow A$. The intuition (Lemma 3) of this judgment is that any address that e evaluates to in a state of type pts is included in the set A as the second component of a pair whose first component is a non-zero probability. The judgment for a statement S has the form $S: pts \rightarrow pts'$ and guarantees that if the execution of S in a state of type pts terminates then the reached state is of type pts'. This is proved in Theorem 1.

Concerning the inference rules, some comments are in order. In the rule (:= *prob), since there are n possible ways to modify x, the posttype is calculated from the pre-type by assigning x its value according to the upper bound of the *n* ways. The upper bound is consider to enable the analysis to cover all possible executions of the statement. In the rule (* $:=^{prob}$), there are nvariables, $\{z_1, \ldots, z_n\}$, that have a chance of getting modified. This produces n post-types in the pre conditions of the rule. Therefore the post-type is calculated from the pre-type by assigning each of the n variables its image under the upper bound of the *n* post-types. In the rule (if^{prob}) , *p* is the probability that the condition of the if statement is true. The rule (par^{prob}) has this form in order for the analysis result of any thread S_i of the par statement to consider the fact that any other thread may have been executed before the thread in hand. As it is the case in the operational semantics, the rules for conditionally spawned threads (par-if^{prob}) and parallel loops (par-for^{prob}) are built on the rule (par^{prob}). In the following we give an example for the application of the rule (par^{prob}). Let:

Fig. 6 A matrix multiplication needed in the proof of Lemma 1.

$$\begin{array}{c} e:pts \rightarrow A \\ \hline n:pts \rightarrow \emptyset \quad x:pts \rightarrow pts(x) \quad e_1 \oplus e_2:pts \rightarrow \emptyset \\ \hline x:=e:pts \rightarrow pts[x \mapsto A] \\ \hline pts(y) = \{(z'_1,p_1),\ldots,(z'_n,p_n)\} \quad \forall i. \ x:=z_i:pts \rightarrow pts_i \\ \hline x:=*y:pts \rightarrow pts[x \mapsto \nabla((pts_1,p_1),\ldots,(pts_n,p_n))(x)] \\ \hline x:=*y:pts \rightarrow pts[x \mapsto \nabla((pts_1,p_1),\ldots,(pts_n,p_n))(x)] \\ \hline *x:=e:pts \rightarrow pts[x \mapsto \nabla((pts_1,p_1),\ldots,(pts_n,p_n))(x)] \\ \hline *x:=e:pts \rightarrow pts[z_i \mapsto \nabla((pts_1,1-p_i),(pts_i,p_i))(z_i) \mid z'_i \in A_{pts}(x)] \\ \hline x:=\&y:pts \rightarrow pts[x \mapsto \{(y',1)\}] \\ \hline \hline x:=&xprob \\ \hline x$$

Fig. 7 The inference rules for the type system for probabilistic pointer analysis

 $\{x \mapsto \{(z', 0.5)\}, \bar{t} \mapsto \emptyset \mid x \neq t \in Var\}, \text{ and }$

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• S_1: if b_1 then x := &y else x := 5,
                                                                                   357 \nabla((pts_1, 1/2), (pts_2, 1/2))
                                                                                        \{x \mapsto \{(y', 0.25), (z', 0.5)\}, t \mapsto \emptyset \mid x \neq t \in Var\}.
                                                                                                                                                            370
             • S_2: x := \&z;
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             • S_{var}: par\{\{S_1\}, \{S_2\}\},
                                                                                  Clearly, S_1: \nabla((pts, 1/2), (pts_2, 1/2)) \rightarrow pts_1 and
                                                                                                                                                            371
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                                                                                  S_2: \nabla((pts, 1/2), (pts_1, 1/2)) \rightarrow pts_2. These two judgments constitute the hypotheses
                                                                                                                                                            372
             • pts = \{t \mapsto
                                              \emptyset | t \in
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                                                                                                                                                            373
                pts_1 = \{x \mapsto \{(y', 0.4)\}, t \mapsto \emptyset \mid x \neq t \in Var\},
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                                                                                  for the rule (par<sup>prob</sup>).
                                                                                                                            Therefore using
                                                                                                                                                            374
                and pts_2 = \{x \mapsto \{(z', 1)\}, t \mapsto \emptyset \mid x \neq t \in Var\}.
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                                                                                  the rule (par<sup>prob</sup>), we can conclude that
                                                                                                                                                            375
                                                                                  S_{par}: pts \to \nabla((pts_1, 1/2), (pts_2, 1/2)).
                                                                                                                                                            376
          We suppose that the condition b_1 in S_1 succeeds
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                                                                                  type of S_{par} clearly covers all semantics states that
          with probability 0.4. Then we have the following:
                                                                                                                                                            377
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                                                                                  can be reached by executing S_{par}. Now we give an
                                                                                                                                                            378
             • \nabla((pts, 1/2), (pts_1, 1/2))
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                                                                                  example for the application of the rule (par-if<sup>prob</sup>).
                                                                                                                                                            379
                \{x \mapsto \{(y', 0.25)\}, t \mapsto \emptyset \mid x \neq t \in Var\},\
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                                                                                  Let:
                                                                                                                                                            380
             • \nabla((pts, 1/2), (pts_2, 1/2))
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• $S_1: x := \& y$,

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• $S_2: x := \&z$, 428

• S_{par-if} : $par-if\{(b_1, S_1), (true, S_2)\}$, and

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• $pts' = \{x \mapsto \{(y', 0.25), (z', 0.5)\}, t \mapsto \emptyset \mid x \neq t \in Var\} \text{ and } pts = \{t \mapsto \emptyset \mid t \in Var\}.$

the We suppose that condition b_1 succeeds with probability 0.4. By the previous example it should be clear that $par\{\{if b_1 then S_1 else skip\}, \{if true then S_2 else skip\}\}:$ $pts \rightarrow pts'$. This last judgment constitutes the hypothesis for the rule (par-if^{prob}). using the rule (par-if^{prob}), we can conclude that $S_{var-if}: pts \rightarrow pts'$. The post type of S_{var-if} clearly covers all semantics states that can be reached by executing S_{par-if} . In rules (whl_1^{prob}) and (whl_2^{prob}) , nrepresents an upper bound for the trip-count of the loop. The post-type of (whl_2^{prob}) is an upper bound for post-types resulting for all number of iterations bounded by n.

The proof of the following lemma is straightforward.

Lemma 3 1.
$$pts \leqslant pts' \Longrightarrow (\forall (\gamma, p).$$
 $(\forall (\gamma, p).$

2. Suppose $e: pts \to A$ and $(\gamma, p) \models pts$. Then $[\![e]\!] \gamma \in Addrs$ implies $([\![e]\!] \gamma, q) \in A$, for some q > 0.

Lemma 3.1 formalizes the soundness of points-to types. Lemma 3.2 shows that for a certain state that is of a certain type, if the evaluation of an expression with respect to the state is an address, then this evaluation is surely (positive probability) approximated by the evaluation of the expression with respect to the type.

The following theorem proves the soundness of the type system. The meant soundness implies that the type system respects the operational semantics with respect to the relation \models whose definition is based on probabilities.

Theorem 1 (Soundness) Suppose that $S: pts \rightarrow pts', S: (\gamma, p) \rightsquigarrow (\gamma', p'), and (\gamma, p) \models pts.$ Then $(\gamma', p') \models pts'$.

Proof: A structure induction on type derivation can be used to complete the proof of this theorem. Some cases are presented below.

• The case of (:= prob): in this case p' = p, $pts' = pts[x \mapsto A]$, and $\gamma' = \gamma[x \mapsto [e]\gamma]$. Hence by Lemma 3.2, $\gamma \models (pts, p)$ implies $\gamma' \models (pts', p')$.

382 The case of (:= **prob*): in this case for some $z \in Var$, $\gamma(y) = z'$ and $x := z : (\gamma, p) \leadsto (\gamma', p)$. For some $i, z' = z'_i$ since $(\gamma, p) \models pts$. Hence by assumption $x := z_i : pts \to pts_i$. Therefore by soundness of (:=prob), $(\gamma', p) \models pts_i \leqslant pts' = pts[x \mapsto \nabla((pts_1, p_1), \dots, (pts_n, p_n))(x)]$.

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- The case of (* := prob): in this case there exists $z \in Var$ such that $\gamma(x) = z'$ and $z := e : (\gamma, p) \leadsto (\gamma', p)$. For some $i, z' = z'_i$ since $(\gamma, p) \models pts$. Hence by assumption $z_i := e : pts \to pts_i$. Therefore by soundness of $(:=^{prob})$, $(\gamma', p) \models pts_i \leq pts' = pts[z_i \mapsto \nabla((pts, 1 p_i), (pts_i, p_i))(z_i) \mid z'_i \in A_{pts}(x)]$.
- The case of (par^{prob}): in this case there exist a permutation $\theta : \{1, ..., n\} \rightarrow \{1, ..., n\}$ and n + 1 states $(\gamma_1, p_1), ..., (\gamma_{n+1}, p_{n+1})$ such that $(\gamma, p) = (\gamma_1, p_1), (\gamma', p') =$ $(\gamma_{n+1}, \frac{1}{n!} \times p'_{n+1}),$ every and for $1 \leq i \leq n$, $S_{\theta(i)}: (\gamma_i, p_i) \rightarrow (\gamma_{i+1}, p_{i+1})$. $(\gamma_1, p_1) \models pts \leq \nabla \{(pts, 1/n), (pts_i, 1/n) \mid j \neq 1\}.$ Therefore by the induction hypothesis F pts_1 (γ_2, p_2) $\nabla \{(pts, 1/n), (pts_i, 1/n) \mid j \neq 2\}$. Again by the induction hypothesis we get $(\gamma_3, p_3) \models pts_2$. Therefore by a simple induction on n, we can show that $(\gamma_{n+1}, p_{n+1}) \models pts_n \leq$ $\nabla((pts_1, 1/n), \dots, (pts_n, 1/n)) = pts'.$ This implies $(\gamma', p') = (\gamma_{n+1}, \frac{1}{n!} \times p'_{n+1}) \models pts'$
- The case of $(par for^{prob})$: in this case there exists n such that

 $par\{\{S\}, \dots, \{S\}\}: (\gamma, p) \leadsto (\gamma', p').$ By induction hypothesis we have

 $par\{\{S\}, \dots, \{S\}\}: pts \to pts'.$ Therefore by the soundness of $(par^{prob}), (\gamma', p') \models pts'.$

• The case of (whl_2^{prob}) : in this case there exist $m \leq n$ and m+1 states, $(\gamma_1, p_1), \ldots, (\gamma_{m+1}, p_{m+1})$, such that $(\gamma, p) = (\gamma_1, p_1), (\gamma', p') = (\gamma_{m+1}, p_{m+1}),$ and $\forall 1 \leq i \leq m$. $S: (\gamma_i, p_i) \rightsquigarrow (\gamma_{i+1}, p_{i+1})$. By induction hypothesis we have $(\gamma', p') \models pts_m \leq \nabla((pts_1, 1/n), \ldots, (pts_n, 1/n))$. Therefore $(\gamma', p') \models pts'$ as required.

We note that probabilities are mentioned implicitly in Theorem 1. This is in the condition that $(\gamma, p) \models pts$. Some of the implications of this

implicit consideration of probabilities are explicit in Lemma 3.2. As an example for the theorem, executing the statement S_{par} , defined above, from the semantics state $\gamma = \{t \mapsto 0 \mid t \in Var\}$ may result in the state $\gamma' = \{t \mapsto 0, x \mapsto z' \mid x \neq t \in Var\}$. This happens if S_2 is executed after S_1 . Clearly we have that $\gamma \models \{t \mapsto \emptyset \mid t \in Var\}$ and $\gamma' \models \{x \mapsto \{(y', 0.25), (z', 0.5)\}, t \mapsto \emptyset \mid x \neq t \in Var\}$.

One source of attraction in the use of type systems for program analysis is the relative simplicity of the inference rules. This simplicity is very important when practical implementation is concerned. The simplicity of the rules naturally simplifies implementations of rules and hence the type system. In particular, from experience related to coding similar type systems, we believe that the implementation of the type system presented in this paper is straightforward and efficient in terms of space and time.

RELATED WORK

Analysis of multithreaded programs:

Typically, analyses of multithreaded programs are classified into two main categories: (a) techniques that were originally designed for sequential programs and later extended to analyze multithreaded programs and (b) techniques that were designed specifically for analyzing, optimizing, or correcting multithreaded programs.

The first category includes flow-insensitive approaches providing an easy way to analysis multithreaded programs. This is done via considering all possible combinations of statements used in a parallel structure. The drawback of this approach is that it is not practical enough due to huge number of combinations. However flow-sensitive approaches of sequential programs were also extended to cover multithreaded programs. Examples of these techniques are constant propagation²⁰, code motion²¹, and reaching definitions²².

The category of techniques that were designed specifically for multithreaded programs include deadlock detection, data race detection, and weak memory consistency. A round abeyance to gain resources usually results in a deadlock situation ^{3,23,24}. Synchronization analysis is a typical start to study deadlock detection for multithreaded programs. In absence of synchronization, if two parallel threads write to the same memory location, a situation of a data race² results. Data race analyses aim at elim-

inating data race situations as they are mainly paragrammer error. Models of weak memory consistency¹ aims at improving performance of hardware. This improvement usually results in complicating parallel programs construction and analysis.

Probabilistic pointer analysis and speculative optimizations:

Although pointer analysis is a well-established program analysis and many techniques have been suggested, there is no single technique that is believed to be the best choice²⁵. The trade-off between accuracy and time-costs hinders a universal pointer analysis and motivates application-directed techniques for pointer anal-A probabilistic pointer analysis that is flow-sensitive and context-insensitive is presented in²⁷ for Java programs. While our work is based on type systems, the work in²⁷ is based on interprocedural control flow graphs (ICFG) whose edges are enriched with probabilities. While our work treats multhithreaded programs, the work in²⁷ treats only sequential programs. Context-sensitive and control-flowsensitive pointer analyses 4, 10, 28, 29 are known to be accurate but not scalable. On the other hand the context-insensitive control-flow-insensitive techniques^{6,11} are scalable but excessively conservative. A convenient mixture of accuracy and scalability is introduced by some technique^{7,30,31} to optimize the trade-off mentioned The probabilistic pointer analysis of a simple imperative language and the pointer analysis of multithreaded programs were studied in^{8,9} and ³², respectively. However none of these typical techniques for pointer analysis study the probabilistic pointer analysis of multithreaded

Speculative optimizations ^{33–36} are considered by many program analyses. A probabilistic technique for memory disambiguation was proposed in ³³. This technique measures the probability that two array references alias. Nevertheless this approach is not convenient to pointers. By lessening the safety of analysis, the work in ³⁴ introduces a pointer analysis that considers speculation. Another unsafe analysis, which achieves scalability using transfer functions, is proposed in ³⁵. The problem with these last two approaches is that they do not compute the probability information required by speculative

optimizations.

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Type systems in program analysis:

There are general algorithms 4, 13, 14, 37–39 for using type systems to present dataflow analyses, which are monotone and forward or backward. While a way 14,37 to reason about program pairs using relational Hoare logic exists, program optimizations 14,38 as types systems also exist. systems were also used to cast safety policies for resource usage, information flow, and carryingcode abstraction 40,41. Proving the soundness of compiler optimizations for imperative languages, using type systems, gained much interest 12-14 of many researchers. Other work studies translating proofs of functional correctness using wpcalculus 42 and using a Hoare logic 14. There are other optimizations 43 that boost program quality besides maintaining program semantics.

Edge and path profiling:

Edge (path) profiling research simply aims at profiling programs edges (paths). The profiling process can be done statically or dynamically. Profiling techniques can be classified into:

- Sample-based techniques^{16,17} which profile representative parts of active edges and paths,
- One-time profiling methods which profile only part of the execution of the program to cut down the overhead ^{17,44},
- Instrumentation-based techniques⁴⁵ which are more convenient for programs with comparably anticipated behavior, and
- Hardware profiling which employs hardware to gather edge profiles using existing hardware for branch anticipation ¹⁸.

Using a parallel data-flow diagram ⁴⁶, many of these techniques are applicable to the language studied in this paper. In particular the technique presented in ¹⁵, a hybrid sampling and instrumentation approach, is a convenient choice giving its simplicity and powerful.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was started during the author's sabbatical at Institute of Cybernetics, Estonia in the year 2009. The author is grateful to T. Uustalu forsfruitful discussions. This work was partially supported by the EU FP6 IST project MOBIUS. The author is also indebted to the anonymous reviewers whose queries and comments improved the paper.

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